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SECURITY INFORMATION

SEMI-ANNUAL HISTORICAL REPORT

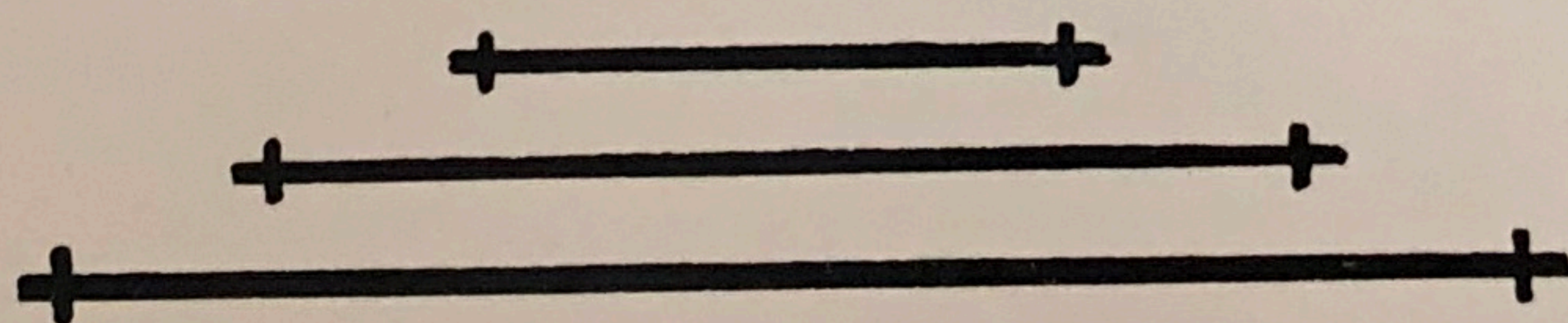
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1 JAN 52 ^{to} 30 JUNE 52

VMA-251

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 70959

1 JAN-
30 JUN,
1952



VMA

251

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 251
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 15
Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
Marine Corps Air Station
El Toro (Santa Ana), California

FF14/VMA-251/CHM:psa

A9-2

Ser: 088

10 July 1952

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From: Commanding Officer, Marine Attack Squadron 251
To: Chief of Naval Operations (Aviation History Unit) Department
of the Navy, Washington 25, D. C.

Subj: Historical Report, submission of, period of 1 January 1952
through 30 June 1952

Ref: (a) OPNAV Inst. 5750.2 of 12 June 1952

Encl: (1) Historical Report, period of 1 January through 30 June
1952
(2) Appendices to Enclosure (1)

1. In accordance with reference (a) enclosure (1) and (2) are sub-
mitted herewith.

C. H. MOORE

Copy To:

CMC (Less Appendices 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 of Enclosure (2))
CMC Schools (Less Appendices 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 of Enclosure (2))
CG, FMFPac (Less Appendices 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 of Enclosure (2))
CG, AirFMFPac (Less Appendices 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 of Enclosure (2))
CO, MAG-15 (Less Appendices 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 of Enclosure (2))

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C-H-R-O-N-O-L-O-G-Y

ENCLOSURE - (1)

----- NAMES OF COMMANDING OFFICERS & DATES OF COMMAND -----

Lieutenant Colonel Joe L. WARREN
09309/7302 USMC

1 January 1952
to 3 January 1952

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur M. MORAN
08610/7302 USMC

4 January 1952
to 31 May 1952

Major Clarence H. MOORE
09418/7302 USMC

1 June 1952
to 30 June 1952

PLACE IN ECHELON OF COMMAND

Marine Attack Squadron 251 was attached to Marine Aircraft Group Thirteen, Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, Commanded by Colonel Ernest R. WEST 04731/9907 USMC, from 1 January through 3 January 1952 and from 4 January through 30 June 1952 was a unit of Marine Aircraft Group Fifteen, Commanded by Colonel Edward B. CARNEY 04620/9907 USMC.

----- GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION -----

This Squadron is located at Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro (Santa Ana), California

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EVENTS OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE

3 January 1952

VMA-251 was reassigned to MAG-15, from MAG-13

4 January 1952

Lieutenant Colonel Joe L. Warren 09309/7302 USMC was relieved of command of VMA-251 by Lieutenant Colonel Arthur M. Moran 08610/7302 USMC.

Major F. G. Phillips 016482/7333 USMCR assumed duties as executive officer.

20 February 1952 to 28 February 1952

Personnel, aircraft, and equipment departed for Camp Pendleton on 20 February to participate in IEX BAKER I. The squadron returned on 28 February 1952.

6 April 1952 to 18 April 1952

On 6 April 1952 the squadron deployed to NAAS, El Centro via air lift. A rear echelon of one officer and twenty five enlisted men were left behind. The mission of the squadron was to accomplish ordnance training.

On 10 April 1952 at 0728, Second Lieutenant D. R. ANNAND took off in AL-17 (81151) from NAAS, El Centro, as a member of a five (5) plane strafing flight. At approximately 0729, Lieutenant Annand made a forced landing approximately three fourths (3/4) of a mile southwest of service runway 21, NAAS, El Centro, California. The accident occurred immediately after take-off when the aircraft crash landed as a result of engine failure.

The aircraft suffered strike damage and the pilot was seriously injured. He has not recovered to date. (See Appendix 4)

On 18 April 1952 the squadron deployed from NAAS, El Centro to MCAS, El Toro.

13 May 1952

At 1208, 13 May 1952 Second Lieutenant Joe K. Jensen took off from MCAS, El Toro as a member of a four (4) plane Ground Controlled Intercept and Camera Gunnery flight. At approximately 1220, the flight intercepted a four (4) plane B-29 formation which was flying at 15,000 feet. At the request of the B-29's, the fighters initiated single plane head-on runs.

After the other three (3) planes had completed their runs, Lt. Jensen collided with the left wing of one of the B-29's. Both aircraft, the F4U-4 and the B-29 sustained strike damage and spun violently into the sea. Lt. Jensen lost his life as did seven (7) members of the B-29 crew. (See Appendix 5).

31 May 1952 to 1 June 1952

On 31 May, the commanding officer of this Unit, Lieutenant Colonel Arthur M. Moran 08610/7302 USMC, was transferred to Headquarters Squadron, MAG-15, as tactical officer. Major Clarence H. Moore 09418/7302 USMC took command as of 1 June 1952.

16 June 1952 to 21 June 1952

Aircraft from VMA-251 participated in Operation AMLEX I at Camp Joseph H. Pendleton. (See Appendix 3)

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INDEX TO APPENDICIES

- APPENDIX (1) ROUTINE DAY
- APPENDIX (2) STATISTICAL SUMMARY
- APPENDIX (3) REPORTS ON MAJOR EXERCISES
- APPENDIX (4) ACCIDENT REPORT AL-17 (2nd. Lt. D. R. ANNAND) WITH PHOTOGRAPHS
- APPENDIX (5) ACCIDENT REPORT AL-16 (2nd. Lt. J. K. JENSEN)
- APPENDIX (6) ORDNANCE SUMMARY
- APPENDIX (7) TRAINING SUMMARY
- APPENDIX (8) REPORT OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

ENCLOSURE (2)

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